

# All-National Is Picked by McGraw: No Changes to Be Made in Base Ball

## 21 PLAYERS ARE NAMED BY MANAGER OF GIANTS

Nine Members of His Combination Are in Circuit Today—Calls Hornsby Best Second Sacker Produced in His Regime.

NO one is better qualified to select an all-star team for the National League than John J. McGraw. He has just completed his twentieth successive season as manager of the New York Giants; he has won eight pennants, more than any other major league field general; he has shipped the wine of success in a world series and he has been crushed in defeat.

McGraw is regarded as one of the greatest judges of a ball player the game has produced. He has not placed a failure with his heroes. They must win and he must win. When they reach the shiny edge of their careers they are tossed aside to be forgotten.

Shortly after the close of the recent world series with the Yankees McGraw was requested to name an all-star National League team during his term as manager. He arranged a select set comprising twenty-one players, and it will be noted that nine are in the game today.

McGraw presented the following: "The greatest list of players in our league for the last twenty years I can note the difference in style of play. I just start with the first season back in 1902. What a scrappy lot the boys were in those days."

"The closest resemblance I have seen at present to the game of years back was in the world series between the Giants and Yankees. There was a play in the third game with Babe Ruth tearing over for third base on a ball fumbled by Frankie Frisch. Frisch recovered as Ruth had turned second base and made a perfect throw to Heinie Groh, who was waiting to tag Ruth."

Groh challenges Ruth. "With base running being developed to the fine point of sliding during this age, the dealer has not had much to fear from the runner, for the runner now slides away from the fielder. Years ago, however, the dealer who attempted to get in the way of a runner was knocked for a loss of many yards."

"There was little Groh, out-weighted almost 100 pounds, tackling Ruth. Heinie was soiled, as he would have been when a strike out was a token of esteem, but he made his play. Nothing has pleased me so much in my career as the way Groh handled that situation. He was fighting mad and I was laughing on the bench when he tackled the runner, developed into a wonderful first. "For my all-star team I will start with Frank Chance, a mediocre catcher, but a good one, and a wonderful baseman. He was the fighting type, loved a close ball game, was a great defensive catcher, a runner and considering his weight was exceptionally fast in fielding."

"Chance did not play for his own average. He would tell his infielders to shoot the ball in the direction of first base the moment a runner tried to leave it to finish the play."

"He would never blame the other side in a close play. When he failed to dig them out of the dirt you'd hear him kicking at himself."

Hornsbury at Second Base. "At present we have the greatest of all second basemen in the game in Rogers Hornsbury with St. Louis. There's a funny thing about this fellow. He is a natural batting first baseman, but he has the brilliant defensive play. He has the perfect throw for a second baseman, gets his hands on a fly ball and handles himself as John Evers did."

"But Hornsbury in the game before the war created the foul strike rule and he would have established records that no one would have equaled. He has one of the most perfect swings I have ever seen. Unlike many great hitters, he is not natural to one particular field. His pitch is a curve ball, but he has the ability to hit slow curves out of the lot. You just can't do much inside figuring."

"Groh is my pick for all of the third basemen. There was Leach, Evers, Davidson, Egan, and others, but in the pinch Groh is the steadiest. He is what you call a sure-slug, a hard hitter. His fresh batting style makes him valuable, for he is a perfect hit-and-run man."

Wagner, of Course, for Short. "The body of the flock is found at shortstop in Honus Wagner. There is no competition, and I will admit that he has had some great shortstops. I have ever seen and a tricky batter. Babe Bancroft and Maranville, I used to love to play the Pirates just to go against Wagner. It was as much of a treat to me as the fans to see him play. "Shortstop needs no further comment. Wagner is the best shortstop I have ever seen and he would be in the first positions, and they would be on the regular team but for Wagner and Hornsbury."

"I have to go back more than ten years to my first choice for catcher. He is the one. The greatest of all. He had everything a winning ball player needs. It is tough to find a catcher who has his stuff when he is retired. "Eddie Roush is the best of the center fielders. Clarence Beaton was a star, but he didn't have much snap about himself. Roush is a straightaway, dangerous batter, covering both left and right field for drives, and doesn't miss many."

"I guess Mike Donlin has to get the call for right field. Mike always liked a tough series and the best pitcher of the other fellow had."

"Not going to pass up George Burns. He gave me excellent service for ten years, steady as a clock, one of the surest catches of a fly ball I have ever seen and a tricky batter. Burns and Jimmy Sheekard draw the places for substitute outfielders, and you wouldn't miss a regular with these fellows sitting in for you."

Two Notable Catchers. "The cream in the catching line goes to Roger Bresnahan and Johnny Kling. I hated to part with Bresnahan. He pulled out the best a pitcher had, never let him relax, and himself was one of the stars of the game."

"Kling was a bit more conservative than Bresnahan, but a brainy catcher. I haven't seen anything like these two since they departed. "The pitching staff starts with the master of the mound, Christy Mathewson. They can have all of their picks, but I'll take 'Big Six' for mine. When you need a victory, Matty was the boy to get it. Look how long he lasted. Why, I believe he could go in there today and win more than half of his games."

"There have been a number of steady pitchers, good pitchers, in the past, but none to equal Matty. The staff could be filled out with Joe McGinnity, Mordecai Brown, Sam Leever, and Rube Babbus, Grover Alexander and Art Nehf."

"Brown was a wizard. McGinnity just what they called him. He was a terror, Adams a great man, Alexander about next to Matty, and Nehf was a wonder. "For a fellow lacking the physique of Matty, McGinnity and the others were good as they ever turned out."

"What the next twenty years will bring I do not know, but I'll stand on this team for the past twenty years."

RETAINED BY HARVARD. CAMBRIDGE, Mass., November 4.—William H. Claflin of Boston has been appointed hockey coach at Harvard for the fourth season. It was announced that games had been arranged with Williams College, University of Toronto, Cornell, Dartmouth, Yale and Princeton.

### Origin of Hand Ball.

By RIPLEY.

PRINCESS ANAGALLA OF CORCYRA THE FIRST HANDBALL PLAYER.

KING LOUIS IX OF FRANCE DIED FROM OVER EXERCISE AT HANDBALL.

THE FOUR-WALL GAME WAS DEVELOPED IN PRISON.

PHIL CASEY FIRST CHAMPION OF THE WORLD. (Father of Handball in America.)

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Princess Anagalla of Corcyra was the first hand ball player. Homer introduces the princess, with her maidens, throwing the ball, and the maidens, under the green mead, the sporting virginity, their shining veils unbound; along the wall and the ball incessant flew."

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